

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USIA FOR ICS/DE ROBOCK, IEU/PERRIN;
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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MAJOR CONFERENCE ON WORLD ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND FREE MARKET ECONOMIES, JULY 8-9:
NAUMANN CANCELS

REF: BONN 09126 AND SUBSEQUENT

1. TO SURPRISE OF EMBASSY AND POST, FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
STIFTUNG OF THE FDP HAS PLEADED THAT IT NOW FEELS UNABLE
TO ASSURE A JOINT EMBASSY/FRIEDRICH NAUMANN CONFERENCE
OF SUFFICIENT STATURE, AND WITH A SUFFICIENTLY PRESTIG-
IOUS AUDIENCE, TO MAKE SUBJECT LONG-PLANNED CONFERENCE
A "SUCCESS."

2. WE HAVE SPENT PAST 48 HOURS SEEKING ASSURE FOUNDA-
TION THAT ALREADY-COMMITTED U.S. DELEGATION WOULD IN
FACT PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE KEY
ECONOMIC ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US AND FRG. WE HAVE ALSO
POINTED OUT OBLIGATION TO CO-INVITED SPEAKERS, WHO
ALREADY HAVE MADE TRAVELING PLANS AND PREPARED LECTURES.
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(IN CASE OF SLATER, WE UNDERSTAND PERSONAL SUMMER LEAVE
PLANS WERE IN FACT DEVELOPED AROUND CONFERENCE.) WE
ALSO STRESSED THAT BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON USG HAS
MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSURE EQUAL TREATMENT AND
ATTENTION TO CONFERENCES WITH EACH OF THE THREE (CDU,
FDP, SPD) POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS BASED IN THE CAPITAL.

3. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN UNABLE TO OVERCOME NAUMANN/
FDP ANXIETIES BASED IN PART ON FOLLOWING BY ONLY THREE
WEEKS THE EMBASSY/ADENAUER CONFERENCE WHICH WILL FEATURE
PRESENTATIONS BY BOTH SECRETARY MARSHALL AND CHAIRMAN
SCHULTZE. FINAL BLOW TO NAUMANN HOPES WAS BUNDESTAG'S
DECISION NOT TO BE IN SESSION DURING WEEK OF JULY 3-9.
THIS, THEY SAY, MEANS POSSIBILITY OF SUFFICIENT NUMBER
OF HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL OFFICIALS ATTENDING IS VERY
SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED.

4. NAUMANN IN ASKING THAT THIS CONFERENCE BE CANCELLED
HAS RECOMMITTED ITSELF TO A JOINT CONFERENCE WITH
EMBASSY DURING 1977, ALTHOUGH THEME MAY IN FACT BE
CHANGED.

5. IMMEDIATE TASK IS ADVISING WALLICH, SLATER, CON-
GRESSMAN FISHER AND WELLS OF THIS UNFORTUNATE AND
TOTALLY UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT. EMBASSY WAS HIGHLY
APPRECIATIVE OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND AND PAR-
TICIPATE. EMBASSY AND FOUNDATION WILL THANK AND APOLO-
GIZE DIRECTLY. POST MEANWHILE PREPARED TO OFFER ALTER-
NATIVE PROGRAMMING, UNDER SAME FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS, FOR
ANY OR ALL OF THE FOUR WHOSE PLANS TO COME TO GERMANY AT
THIS TIME WOULD BE INCONVENIENT TO CHANGE AT THIS LATE
DATE.

6. FINALLY, OF COURSE, WE THANK WASHINGTON COLLEAGUES
WHOSE WORK RESULTED IN THIS SOLID DELEGATION TO WHAT,
THREE DAYS AGO, SEEMED A MOST PROMISING GERMAN-AMERICAN
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CONFERENCE.
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